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## INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

In accordance with the duty of disclosure provisions of 37 CFR §1.56, there is hereby provided certain information which the Examiner may consider material to the examination of the subject U.S. patent application. It is requested that the Examiner make this information of record if it is deemed material to the examination of the subject application.

1. Enclosures accompanying this Information Disclosure Statement are:
  - 1a. ☒ Form PTO-1449.
  - 1b. ☒ Copies of IDS citations.
  - 1c. ☐ An English language copy of search report(s) from a counterpart foreign application or a PCT International Search Report.
  - 1d. ☒ English language translation (complete or relevant portion(s)) attached to each non-English language publication.
  - 1e. ☐ Explanations of Relevancy of References (ATTACHMENT 1(e), hereto) for providing a concise explanation of each non-English publication.
  - 1f. ☐ List of Copending Applications (ATTACHMENT 1(f), hereto).
2. ☒ In accordance with 37 CFR §1.98, a concise explanation of what is presently understood to be the relevance of each non-English language publication is:

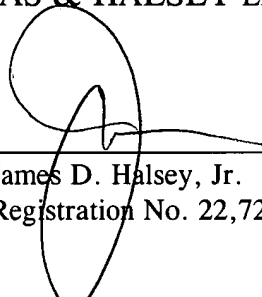
(Check appropriate Items 2a, 2b, 2c and/or 2d)

- 2a. ☐ satisfied because all non-English language publications were cited on the enclosed English language copy of the PCT International Search Report or the search report from a counterpart foreign application indicating the degree of relevance found by the foreign office. (See U.S. Patent & Trademark Office's authorization in the Federal Register, Vol. 57, No. 12, January 17, 1992, at page 2031 (Reply to Comment 68).)
- 2b. ☐ set forth in the application.
- 2c. ☒ satisfied because an English language translation (complete or relevant portion(s)) is attached to each non-English language publication.
- 2d. ☐ enclosed as Attachment 1(e), hereto.
3. No admission is made that the information cited in this Statement is, or is considered to be, material to patentability nor a representation that a search has been made (other than search report(s) from a counterpart foreign application or a PCT International Search Report, if submitted herewith). 37 CFR §§ 1.97(g) and (h).

Respectfully submitted,

STAAS & HALSEY LLP

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PRIOR ART INFORMATION LIST

Your case No.	
Our case No.	2000FJ609

Inventor, Patent number, Country, Author, Title, Number of Document	Issue date	Concise Explanation of the Relevance (indication of page, column, line, figure of the relevant portion)
JP-A-8-287172	November 1, 1996	Japanese gazette and English abstract